number of vancancies which are specifically exempted from ban orders. After receipt of this information, the Commission will take steps to declare the result.

Lions, tigers and elephants in the country

2464. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of lions and tigers (both sexes) in the country and how many of them belong to the white variety; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of elephants is declining in the country, and what is their number at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) The population of lions, which are found in the wild only in the Gir forest of Gujarat, is 239 according to the enumeration carried out in May, 1985. The population of tigers according to the enumeration done in 1984, is 4005. No white tigers are reported currently in the wild. Their number in different zoos of the country at present is 24.

(b) No, Sir. The population of wild elephants at present is estimated between 16,600 and 22,250.

Appointments in M.C.D.

2465. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1692 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th May, 1985 regarding appointments in M.C.D. and states :

(a) what are the resaons for departures from that of the MCD O.O. No. F/6/8/73/CES (C)/39 dated 29th August, 1973 and the Recruitment Regulations for the Senior Clerical Service as laid down in the Corporation's Resolution No. 546 dated the 3rd. October, 1963; and

(b) what were the then existing provisions of Recruitment Regulations under which the Superintendents mentioned against S. Nos. 1 to 59 in annexure 'A' were given regular appointment as such and the date/dates of the DPC meetings held for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi have informed that there was no departure as stated. There were no notified Recuritment Regulations for the post of Superintendent prior to 1975. The officials listed in Annexure 'A' were promoted on seniority-cum-fitness basis prior to the notified Recruitment Regulations. There was no DPC prior to 1981.

Special cells for redressal of public grievances

2466. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) wheather Government have any proposal under their consideration for setting up special cells or agencies for the redressal of public grievances; and

(b) whether Government propose to have a time bound arrangements for the redressal of public grievances ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Ministries and offices having large public dealings have set up special arrangements for redress of public grievances.

(b) Instructions have been issued to ensure that :

(1) grievances are dealt with in a time bound frame ;

(2) token system is introduced, wherever grievances are handed over personally with indication as to the time frame by which a reply would be given; and

(3) where a time angle is involved, as in matters relating to railways and hospitals, grievances should be settled on the spot, as far as possible.

Appearance of Comet Halley

2467. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Halley's Comet has made its appearance recently;

(b) whether it has been photographed by the Indian astronomers at the Kavalur Observatory in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether any clues about the origin and creation of the solar system and other vital information has been gathered by these astronomers after examining the photographs of the comet; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The origin and creation of the solar system is a very complex scientific problem. During the period of stay of Halley's Comet, many observations will be taken, not only to photograph it but also to mesaure the spectral distribution of the emissions, direct measurement by cometary probes etc. In these efforts, a large number of scientists are working all over the globe. All these studies including intensive observations of Comet Halley during March-April, 1986 may lead to a better understanding of the phenomenon of orign and creation of the solar system.

Launching of Augmented Satellite Vehicle

2468. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the results likely to be achieved as a result of the launching of the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : The results likely to be achieved as a result of the launching of the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle are the following :—

—Development of a launch vehicle capable of placing a satellite of approximately 150 kg. weight in 400-500 km. near circular orbit for space scientific/applications experiments.

—Providing a test vehicle for flight testing important systems for future launch vehicles/satellite programmes of the Department like the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles/Indian Remote Sensing Satellite, etc.

—Development and proving of important technologies essential for the development of PSLV/GSLV and other future launch vehicles in a most cost effective way. These technologies include among others :

(1) Strap-on technology
(2) Closed loop guidance system.
(3) Yaw manoeuvre.
(4) Bulbous heat shield
(5) S-band telemetary system.